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Congresswoman Matsui Votes Against H.R. 3

Legislation Would Prohibit Women from Accessing Family Planning Services and Place Burdens on Small Businesses

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, Congresswoman Doris O. Matsui (CA-5) voted against H.R. 3, legislation that would for the first time place abortion coverage restrictions on women who purchase insurance in the private market with their own money and small businesses who provide health care to their employees. As a result, this unprecedented attack on a women's right to choose would limit a woman's ability to receive health care services, in addition to adding new burdens for their employers.

"This bill is nothing more than a misnamed attack on American women in order to pursue a politically driven ideological agenda," Congresswoman Matsui said. "It is clear that this legislation is not about preventing taxpayer dollars from going towards abortion procedures, because that is already prohibited by current law. H.R. 3 is really about restricting a women's right to choose by altering business tax codes."

H.R. 3, referred to as the "No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act," would in fact go much further than the title implies. Federal law already prohibits any federal funds from going towards abortions, and health care plans that receive federal funds must keep those funds separate from any funds for abortion services.

In addition to this bill's many shocking provisions and potential tax increases, it would add significant obstacles to small business job growth. Last year, as a result of the Affordable Care Act, small businesses became eligible for a tax credit to assist them in providing private health care coverage to their employees. But H.R. 3 would erase this benefit for small businesses by

eliminating the health insurance tax credits for any health insurance plans that include coverage for abortion.

This would not only add a financial burden onto the backs of small businesses, but an administrative one as well. Every small business owner would have to sort through pages of fine print on their insurance plan before applying for this tax credit, instead of spending valuable time growing their business and creating jobs.

Small businesses that do determine that their health insurance policy does in fact cover even one abortion related service would be financially punished in one of two ways. They could either keep their present policy and lose thousands of dollars in tax credits – or they would have to give up their current health insurance plan and most likely have to pay higher premiums for a new plan.

“This bill represents greater intrusion into personal health care matters that should be only between a woman, her doctor and loved ones,” added Matsui. “It is dangerous, punitive, and wrong. I strongly oppose H.R. 3 and will continue to fight to protect a woman’s right to choose, protect the privacy of all Americans, and fight to improve health care services for all.”

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